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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000543

SIPDIS

EEB/IFD FOR MARLENE SAKAUE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2019
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [KV](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY WILL SUPPORT IMF/WORLD BANK MEMBERSHIP FOR
KOSOVO

REF: SECSTATE 33629

Classified By: Ambassador James Jeffrey for reasons 1.4 b, d

(C) Ambassador delivered reftel demarche April 10 to MFA Undersecretary Apakan, who said Turkey will be supportive of Kosovo's membership in the IMF and World Bank. Ambassador explained the quorum requirement and the need for more countries to abstain or even vote no for the vote to succeed.

Ambassador suggested that Turkey reach out in particular to those members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference who have said they want to recognize Kosovo but have not yet done so, and urge them to at least abstain on this vote as a way to show support. Turks fully understood the logic of our request to reach out to OIC and other fence-sitters, and indicated they would take the request on board, but made no specific commitment. We are pretty confident they will, but we will need to follow up to ensure they do so with vigor.

12. (C) Econ Counselor delivered reftel demarche the same day to Treasury Undersecretary Canakci. Canakci said Turkey would vote in favor, continued to be a strong supporter of Kosovo's independence, and saw Kosovo's IMF/World Bank membership as bringing significant new and needed resources to bear on the country's needs. Econcouns explained the quorum voting requirements and the need for additional no votes or absentions. He also noted that if the vote failed for lack of quorum, the issue would be on the agenda for the fall IMF/World Bank meetings, which will be held in Istanbul.

13. (C) Embassy Ankara suggests Department also redouble its efforts to get votes from those OIC members who continue to sit on the fence about recognizing Kosovo. An abstention in this case is effectively a way for these countries to privately show support.

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<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Turkey>

Jeffrey